



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue #7

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

16 June 2011

Pest Patrol Hotline

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

News from Above the Lakes

Jacob Stokes, county agent covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties, and Bob Bett, county agent covering Marion and Horry Counties, confirmed the presence of kudzu bug in all of those counties. Dr. (JC) Chong discovered them in kudzu in Georgetown County.

News from Below the Lakes

Despite the rains last night, it remains hot and dry down here. One consultant informed me yesterday that he is seeing building populations of spider mites on cotton. See "Spider Mites in Cotton" below for more information about spider mites. Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported seeing kudzu bugs in soybean in his counties.

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Dr. Tim Davis found kudzu bugs in Union and Cherokee Counties late last week and also found numerous deer remains in a patch of kudzu – a mass gravesite! Be careful out there!



Cotton Situation

As of 13 June 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 96% of the crop being planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 99% and the 5-yr average of 98%. Temperatures have remained high. Although many acres above I-26 received rainfall late last week, and just about the entire state received rain last night, we are still very short on rainfall. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 38% very short, 48% short, 14% adequate, and 0% surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 4% very poor, 22% poor, 47% fair, 27% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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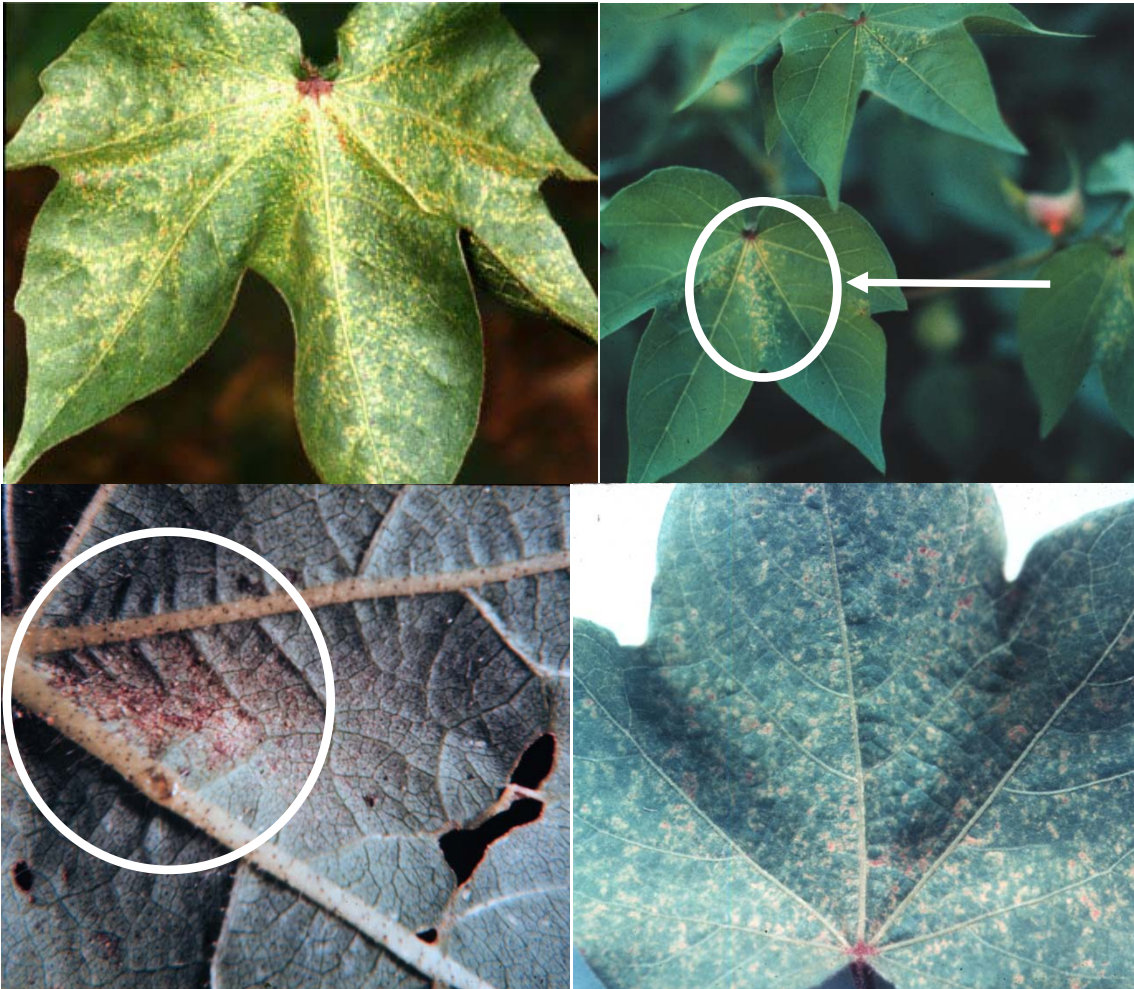
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Spider Mites in Cotton

Drake Perrow, consultant and producer, called me yesterday about spider mites he is seeing on cotton this early (ca. 7-10 nodes). I asked him if the cotton was planted without Temik under it, and his answer was “yes”. We talked briefly about the extended suppression of spider mites that we receive with Temik. We are missing Temik on numerous acres, and it has been hot and dry, a perfect recipe for spider mites. I thought that this issue would come up sooner this season, and here it is. So, look for the following symptoms, particularly in cotton that did not get Temik at planting (or sidedress, if you are fortunate enough to have some left) and that might have had acephate (Orthene) applications late for thrips. Late sprays for thrips can flare spider mites. Early signs of spider mites will be the pale stippling noticed on the upper surface of the leaves. Early infestations can also be noticed by looking under leaves between the main veins near the leaf petiole where you will notice active populations, eggs, feeding injury, and possibly webbing.



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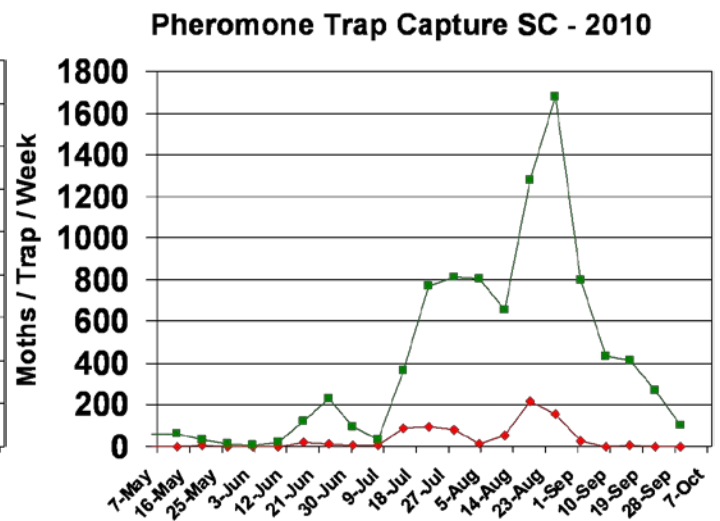
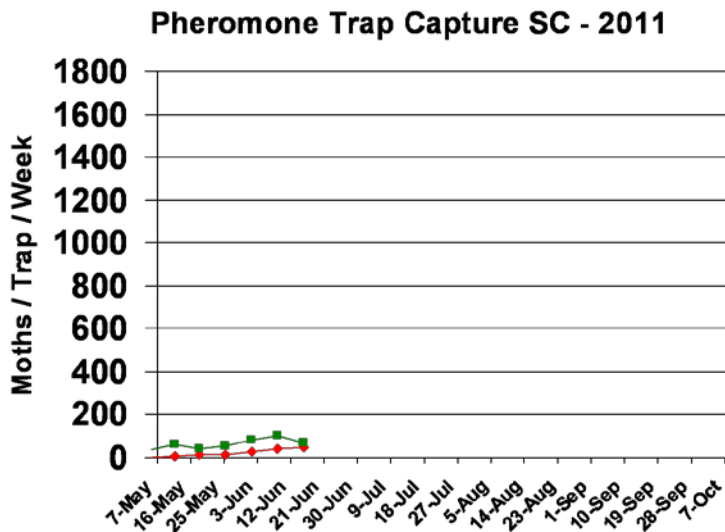
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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Numbers are similar, but our captures will undoubtedly start increases in the next few weeks – how high with they go this year? Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/pspublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

Soybean Situation

As of 13 June 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 78% of soybeans as planted, ahead of where we were last year at 74% and the 5-yr average of 71%. About 66% of soybeans have emerged, compared with 57% last year and 55% for the 5-yr average. Conditions for soybeans were reported as 8% very poor, 30% poor, 44% fair, 18% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 44 of 46 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Because we have almost confirmed the presence of this species on a host plant in every county in SC, I am now asking that all wanting to provide information about occurrence of this species inform me if they are observed in any crops, particularly soybeans. ***Please email me with reports from soybeans in all counties not reporting them in the crop previously – see map below.***



Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids are showing up in soybeans in many locations right now. Be on the lookout for newly developed adults moving from kudzu to soybeans. The picture below was taken yesterday by Jeff McCall, who works with Dr. Emerson Shipe, of the bugs on young soybean plants at the Simpson Station (Anderson County) in a seed increase managed by Dr. Chris Ray. Notice how the bugs aggregate on the main stems. They will also be found in large numbers under the leaves. When disturbed, they will fly around quickly (like flies) and land on just about anything, seemingly preferring to land on the highest object around (you, if you are the disturber). They also appear to prefer the color white, so if you have a light colored shirt on, they will probably be on you quickly. At this point, we do not have any solid data on thresholds (the species has only been reported in soybeans since July of last year), but I am recommending that field edges can be sprayed if numbers are “excessive”. If herbicide is going out over the entire field, certainly consider a tankmix with insecticide, if the numbers per plant are high. See the chart below for some data generated last year in my laboratory considering contact efficacy only. Use one of the materials labeled for use in soybeans.



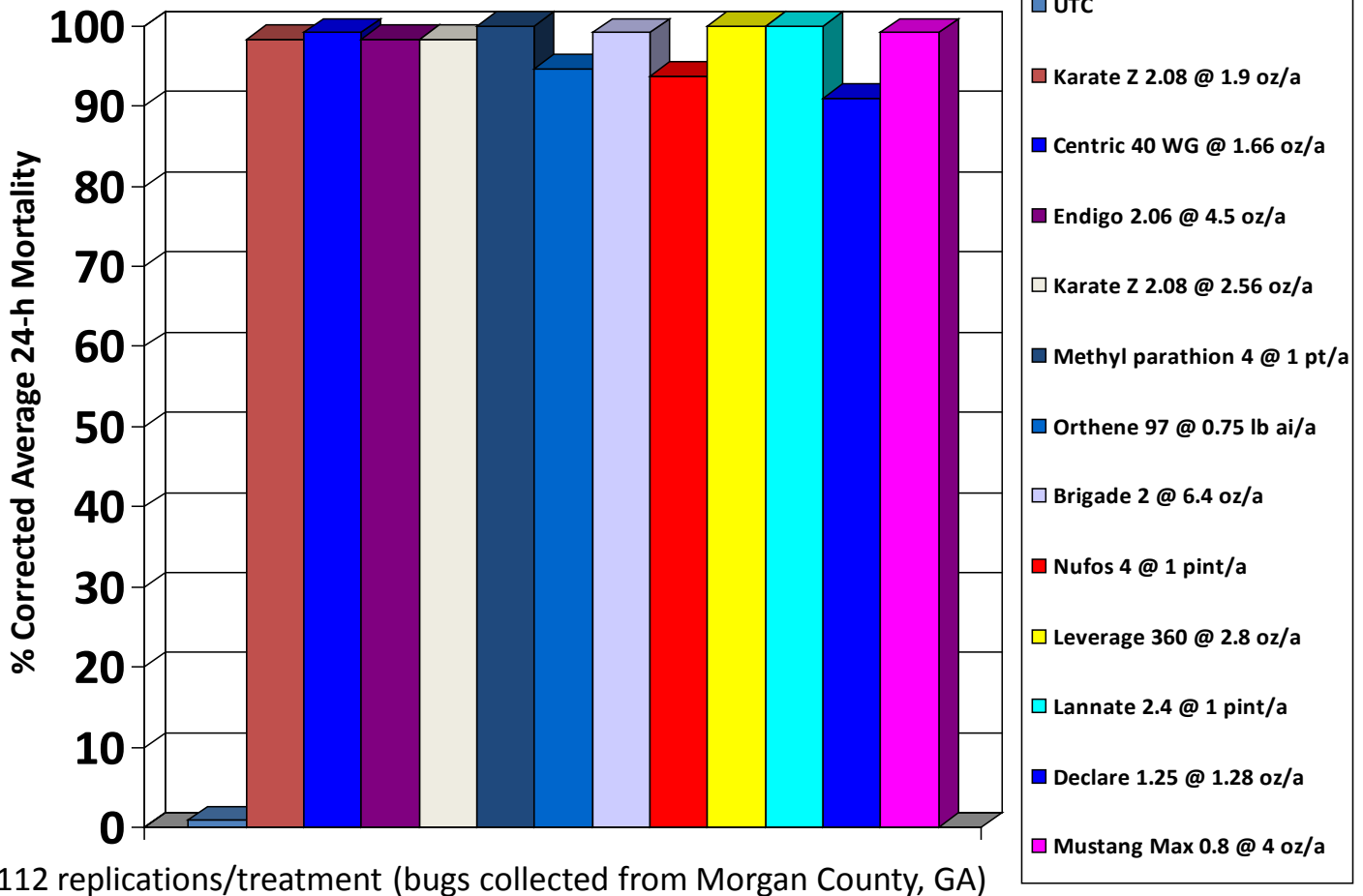
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Laboratory Topical Bioassays September 2010 – Adults of *Megacopta cribraria*



J. Greene and P. Roberts

Please keep in mind that the above data were generated from contact efficacy bioassays 24 hr following application of the materials to the bugs. All rates were intended to be the highest labeled use rate for each material. Control was very good at the max rates. Reduced rates should be expected to produce reduced mortality. Field trials from UGA (Dr. Phillip Roberts) last year indicated that most of these materials provided good control of the kudzu bug. (Charts on next page).



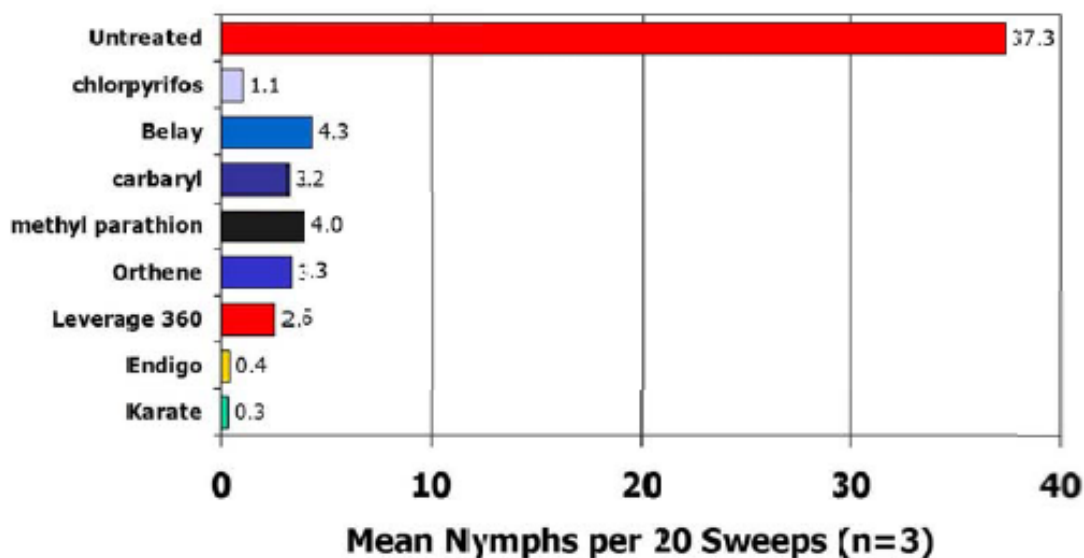
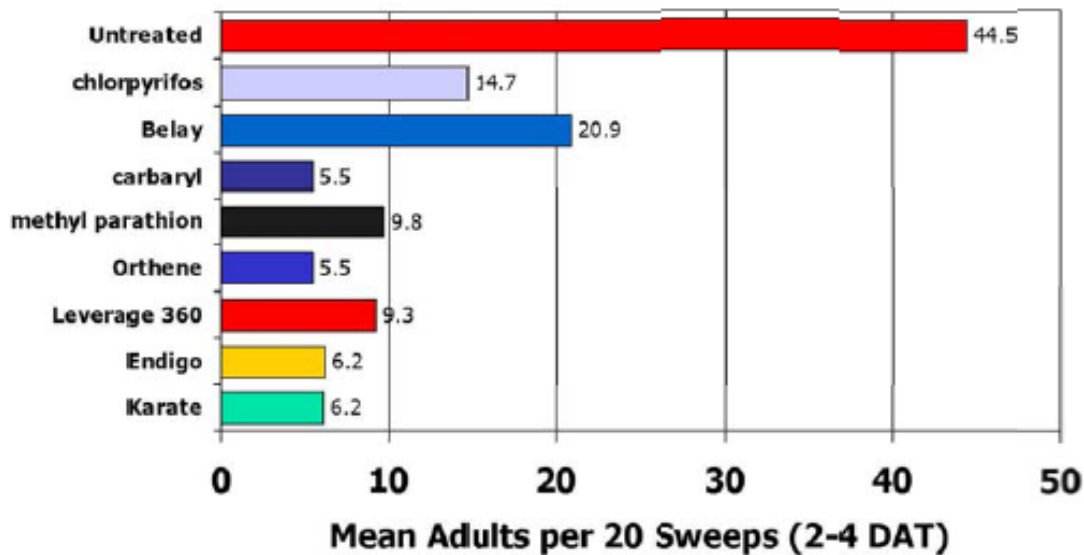
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Kudzu Bug Insecticide Efficacy Trial (Oconee County GA, 2010)



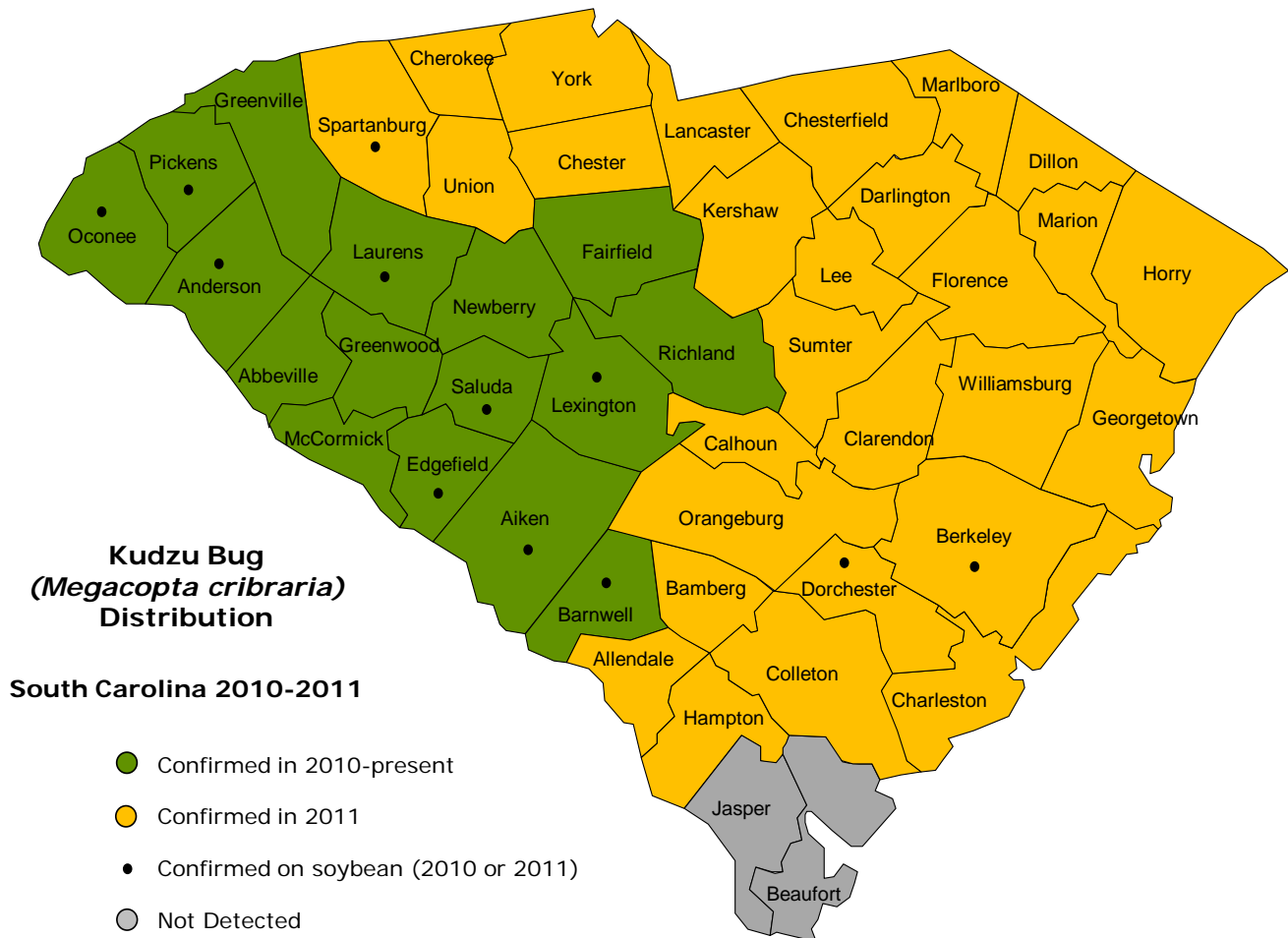
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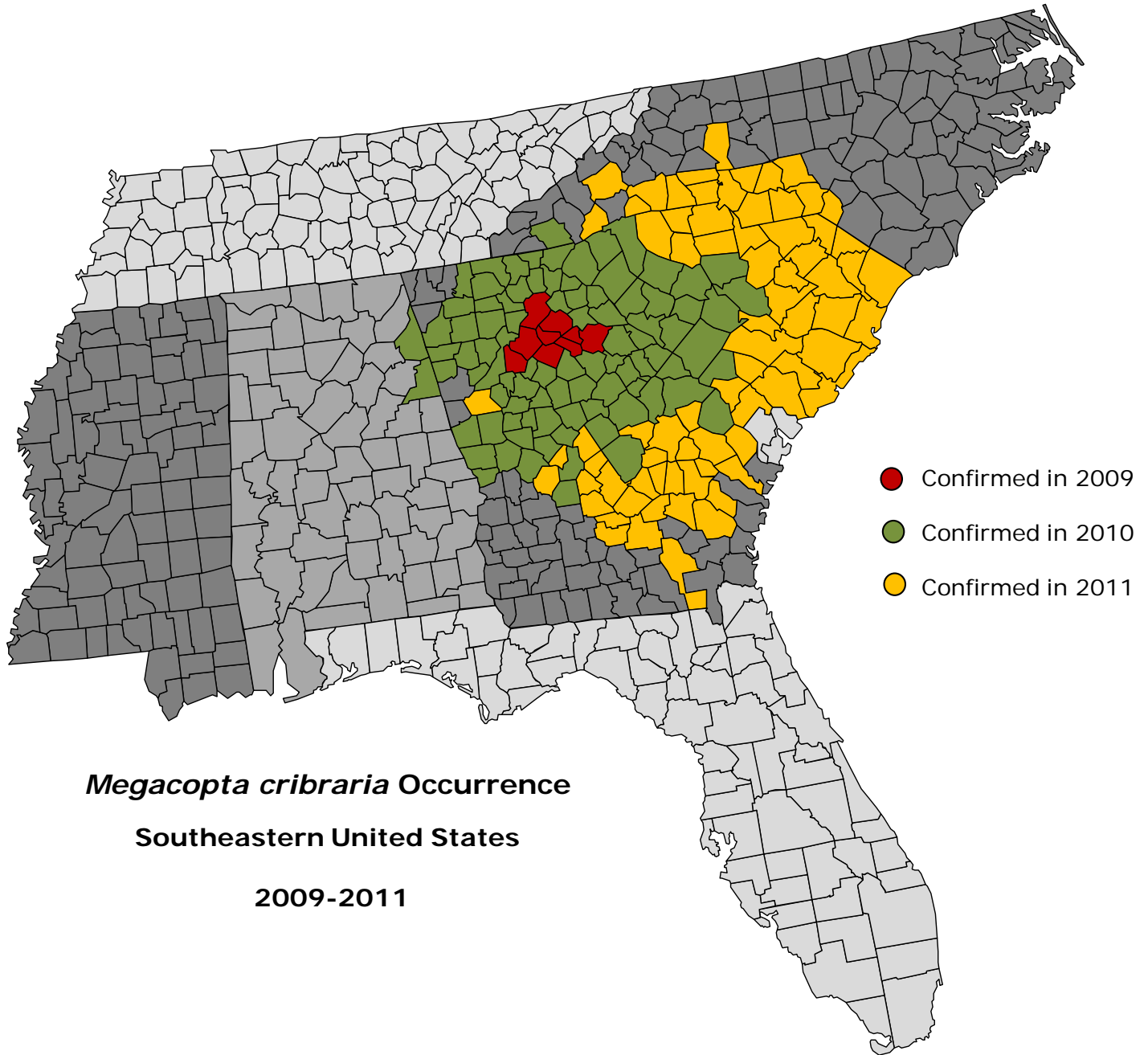
The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. We have just 2 counties remaining that have not reported the insect as established on a host (mostly kudzu). We are now documenting the presence of the species on soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and we have already seen them on the crop this season. The kudzu bug has now been confirmed in more counties in GA and in NC as of last week. That is represented on the map of the Southeast (next page).



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***Megacopta cribraria* Occurrence**

Southeastern United States

2009-2011

Soybean Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

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Pest Management Handbook - 2011

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html>

For past newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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